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PHILIPPINES

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS WITH SPAIN ³

Already four decades have elapsed since Spain withdrew from the Philippines. Yet despite the fairly long separation, Spain's culture continues to be felt all over the country. Daily, Filipinos converse in the language of Castile 5 worship in the churches which Spain's influence erected 5 observe the laws which Spain granted them, and exhibit Spanish mannerisms.

Wherefore such preference for things Spanish?

The answer is obvious. The long Spanish domination of the Islands firmly embedded Spanish ideas. Spanish officials and Spanish missionaries mixed with the people, and through precept and example, changed the mode of life of the Filipinos.

Spain once controlled Philippine commerce, but that is past history. Today Spain retains but a trifling portion of Philippine trade. What Philippine-Spanish trade is now carried on is steadily decreasing and is relatively unimportant.

Yet it is interesting to note that Spain is a large consumer of Philippine tobacco, in fact stands next to the United States in this respect.

The Spanish group in the Philippines is not large. Altogether but four thousand Spaniards are officially registered at the Spanish Consulate in Manila, but there must be at least another one thousand residing in the Islands who consider themselves Spaniards. Half of the Spanish population is concentrated in Manila.

The Spanish community in Manila constitutes an interest-

ing group. Their rendezvous, social and otherwise, is *El Casino Espanol*, a Spanish club, a consulate, and a chamber of commerce all in one. The Spanish *Casino*, artistic in design and conveniently located, furnishes a fit setting for the little Spanish world. Spanish charity is best exemplified in the

³ Section read by Don Andres Soriano, President of the *Camara de Comercio Espanola* (Spanish Chamber of Commerce).